RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 16th August, 1985/25 Sravana, 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING STATEMENTS BY MINISTER ON THE ASSAM ACCORD

MR. CHAIRMAN: I wish to make an announcement. The Home Minister will make a statement on the Assam Agreement today at 12-30. Now Question No. 341. Shri J.P. Goyal.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of an offset printing press for Parliamentary Publications

*341. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:†
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a modern offset press is being set up for printing of Parliamentary publications; and

(b) if so, by when the proposed press is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The existing Minto Road Press is being modernised for Parliamentary publications. The process of modernisation may take 2-3 years to complete.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Sir, the Parliamentary publications and publication of parliamentary papers, including debates, these days are taking a lot of time and are delayed. I desire and request the Government that there should be a separate press—an offset press—for Parliament itself and that should be under the control of Parliament Secretariat. At present, I understand a lot of work is being entrusted to private presses and there are so many mistakes also. These cannot be looked after by our Parliament Secretariat. So it is desirable that instead of modernising the Minto Road Press—of course the Minto Road Press may also be modernised as that is a press for all general Government work—there should be a separate press for Parliament because there is a lot of work for Parliament. What is the stand of the Government in this regard?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: As far as the hon. Member's anxiety about the Parliamentary papers being published in time and with no errors is concerned, I share that anxiety. It is true that at present some of the work regarding the debates etc. is being done by some private presses. It was in pursuance of a decision taken by the General Purposes Committee of the Lok Sabha. And it is also true that sometimes there are errors. Minto Road Press is doing bulk of the parliamentary work—mostly it is the parliamentary work. Its capacity—installed capacity—has further been reduced. It is not able to cope with the entire requirements. It can cope up at the most with 50 per cent of the requirement. That is why proposals are there to modernise it. Now whether a new press should be installed, instead of modernising it, and this proposal should be given up and whether it should be directly under the Parliament Secretariat—at the moment I cannot say. At the most I can pass on this suggestion to my colleague, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor, when he returns.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: In case a separate press is not being established and the same press is being relied upon, I would request that the Parliament staff, including the experts and printers, should be associated with the printing and publication work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. This is a suggestion for action.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri J. P. Goyal.

श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज : मान्यवर, यह कहा गया है कि आधुनिकीकरण की व्यवस्था हो रही है और दो-तीन वर्षों में पूरी हो जायेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी से कि आधुनिकीकरण के बाद इसकी क्षमता क्या हो जायेगी। और अभी इसकी क्षमता क्या है। आधुनिकीकरण करने में आवर्ती और अनावर्ती व्यय कितना बढ़ जायेगा या घट जायेगा ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: When this modernisation is completed, it shall have a capacity of printing 2130 pages a day, which is almost the requirement today. Now the requirement is bound to increase after two or three years. When this is completed, even then this Press may be short of it. The expenditure which is at present expected to be spent on it is over Rs. 5 crores.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the reply it is stated that the process of modernization may take two to three years. But the present press can be modernized within 15 days. I would like to know whether they are going in for offset and photo-composing or continuing letter-press printing.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, the hon. Member is very right and I think he has put a very relevant question. The most unfortunate part is that we have yet to do with letter-press technology and the main purpose of changing it is to go in for photo-litho technology. That will increase its capacity, efficiency, save time, etc.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Sir, is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the press workers have a serious misgiving as regards their future? Because of this modernization they feel that they would be thrown out. Is the Government going to assure that they would be there and they would be trained for the offset printing or the modern technique which they are going to adopt in future because as it is there is a lot of agitation? I do not know if the Government is aware of it. The press workers are pressing to get this reply from the Government and there is no reaction, no response from the Ministry since two months, and I have been pursuing it. Is the Government going to give a positive answer to this?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I am going to positively respond to the hon. lady Member....(*Interruptions*).... I am very positively responding to the hon. lady Member. What I am respectfully submitting is that the hon. lady Member, Mrs. Usha Malhotra, has raised a very relevant question. There are over 2,000 employees in this and when we go in for the modern technology, 300 people will be required for doing the work. The others will become surplus. Those 300 have to betrained and works/jobs for the rest have to be found. The Government is quite conscious of this problem.

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह: इतनी जल्दी जवाब देने से तो सब सवाल खत्म हो जायेंगे ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: If you want me to prolong it I am prepared to prolong it. In the absence of Mr. Abdul Ghafoor I have got this opportunity and I would like to answer as much as I can.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Tell them in detail.

Water supply from Tube-wells sunk by N.D.M.C.

*342. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1885 given in Rajya Sabha on 17th May, 1985 and state:

(a) whether water from the tube-wells sunk by the New Delhi Municipal Committee for domestic supply is tested before and after adding Bleaching powder to ascertain whether the impurities had been brought down to permissible level; and

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to adopt modern techniques to make water fit for human consumption?